

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13, 18 19, 27, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claims 6, 11, 14, 25, 28, 34, 39 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 13, 15-19, 21-24, 26, 27, 29-33, 35-38, and 41-42 are pending in this application.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims 11, 14, 25, 28, 39, and 40. Applicants respectfully disagrees. However, to further prosecution, Applicants canceled these claims without prejudice.

Claim objections:

The Examiner objected to claims 1-19 and 21-42 because of informalities. Applicant amended these claims according to the Examiner's proposal.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected claims 18, 19, 21, 23, 25-28, and 30 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Williams et al. Applicants respectfully disagrees. The present invention includes limitations neither shown nor suggested in Williams.

The Examiner stated that Williams discloses in particular with the left structure shown in Fig. 9 a transistor structure with a drain region and a first and second source region. Applicants respectfully disagree. The left structure shown in Fig. 1 does not comprise two distinct source regions and two distinct gates covering two distinct channels formed by a common drain and a first and second source as claimed and shown in Fig. 2 of the present application.

Williams discloses a single transistor having an annular structure with an annular source, an annular gate and a center drain structure. Williams clearly discloses that all relevant regions of the transistor do have an annular shape. See in particular column 8, lines 29-35 where Williams states:

"Hence, from a top view, the drift, drain, P-body, the various P+ buried regions, and other structures of LDD lateral DMOS transistor 901 are annular structures. For example, as shown in FIG. 9, the conductor 910 which connects both the P-body regions and source regions of LDD lateral DMOS transistor 901 is shown in FIG. 9 as annular."

(Emphasis added)

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assumption, there is only a single ring shaped source and not a first and second source as marked in the drawing of the Examiner. Thus, Applicants believe that the independent claim 18 is allowable

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §103

The Examiner further rejected claims 1, 10, 11, 13-16, 32, 38, 39, 41, and 42 under USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Myazaki in view of Arai. To further prosecution, Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 32 to include the limitations of a two transistor structure by including the limitations of claims 6 and 34 in to claims 1 and 32, respectively. No new matter has been introduced. The amendments only incorporate features of former dependent claims. Neither Myazaki or Arai disclose such a structure. In fact, non of the cited prior art discloses such a two transistor structure as stated above. Thus, Applicants believe that the independent claims 1 and 32 are now also allowable.

Dependent claims

The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims and are, thus, patentable at least to the extent of the independent claim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests to defer any reasoning with respect to the patentability of these claims at this time.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested. It is further submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the agent of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*) Order Number 068736.0232.

Respectfully submitted,

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